In a portion of the column headed "Dr. Clarke's Statement" the writer reports that Clark was interviewed Monday night, when he expressed his conviction of the truth of Alice's statements. The writer reiterates, as from Clark himself, some of the details of McIlroy's employment mentioned above. According to Clark, McIlroy had been discharged on June 11, 1885, for "brutally ill-using a patient." He had obtained an invitation to the Attendants' ball from his sister, a cook in the Asylum.

On this occasion Clark described Alice's illness as "a mild species of melancholy madness." This seems inconsistent with the explanation that she was confined because she was

> a strong, well-built girl, and had been kept in the institution longer perhaps than was absolutely necessary, for fear that she should get into bad company, as it was suspected that her inclinations would lead her in that direction.

Clark hints at a combination of physical attractiveness and promiscuity that could not have helped Alice's character in rape case.

That she was so "strong and healthy" accounts for her working in the kitchen and the milking house, where she "got on friendly terms" with the cook, McIlroy's sister. In explaining how Alice would have had contact with McIlroy at the Ball, on January 22, 1886, Clark sheds some light on relations between patients and staff at the late 19th-century institution. Alice's relationship with the cook and other members of the staff with whom she worked, in the kitchen and the milk-house, seems to have earned her certain privileges, including the right to witness the Ball, although patients were not normally allowed to attend. On learning that the cook, McIlroy's sister, was ill, Alice and McIlroy left the Ball together to visit her in her basement room. On their return to the ballroom they entered a passage to the upstairs flat, where McIlroy closed the doors behind them and assaulted Alice. McIlroy assaulted her again four days later, in the milk-house, probably in a stall at the far end of the building.

At some point (for example, in the middle of the second column, where one reads, without quotation marks, "A day or so before the birth of the child the matter was communicated to me, and I at once took steps to investigate, etc.)" the narrative shifts from third to first person, as if the writer was using a text